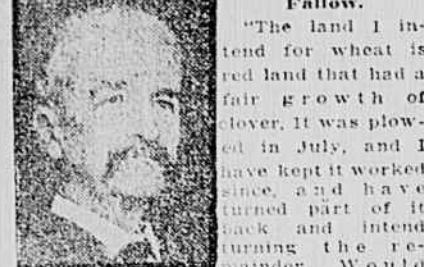


WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Thursday, October 9, 1913.

Wheat on Clover



"The land I intend for wheat is red land that had a fair growth of clover. It was plowed in July, and I have kept it worked since, and have turned over a good deal of manure and intend turning the remainder. Would you advise me to use fertilizer on the wheat? You should have let the land remain set from the July plowing. By re-plowing it you are making conditions less favorable to wheat. All that was needed was to keep the land worked over with spring-tillage harrow or disk and get the surface fine. It is a costly way to raise wheat. If you had turned the clover for corn in the spring, you would have had something to pay for the fallow. The best thing you can use will be 400 pounds of acid phosphate an acre."

Likened to Apple Trees.
"I am sending you some moss that is growing on my apple trees and seem to be damaging them. What is the cause? The plant is not moss, but a certain very low form of green plants called algae grow on the bark and the lichen lives on these. It is more nearly allied to fungus and molds than to moss. Scrub the trunks of the trees and whitewash them."

Green Worms on Lettuce.
Mathews County: "A little green worm attacked my lettuce plants and ate them up. How can I prevent them this season? In one article you mentioned aphids. Where can I buy this, and in what quantity is it sold and how used? My lettuce plants seem to be yellow and lose their leaves. What shall I do for them? One of the most handy things about the garden is one of the cheap tin sprayers or atomizers. Though I have a large spraying machine, I use the little tin one very frequently. One spraying with aphine settled the green worms on lettuce plants for me. You can get aphine from any of the large seedsmen. I believe it costs about \$1 a quart in the cans. But a quart goes a long way in the hand sprayer, as it is diluted with forty parts of water. There is some deficiency in the soil where your lettuce is sown. Better water with a level tablespoonful of nitrate of soda dissolved in two gallons of water."

Grass for Name.
Richmond: "Tell me what the enclosed grass is." It is Panicum Crispum, barnyard grass, a very common annual grass that a Western gentleman has been coming under the name of "Billion-dollar grass" and claiming it is to be the greatest of hay makers. There is no doubt that it will make a good deal of hay sown on strong land."

Grass for Lowlands.
Halifax County: "I have a body of creek lowlands, very subject to overflow. Land sandy in places and in some spots. Wish to know in grass. Please inform me what grasses are best for hay? I had thought of timothy, red top and meadow fescue. Can I sow it next spring? The grasses best to sow the varieties that come in at same season. The meadow fescue is excellent, but earlier than the timothy. The timothy and red top associate well together, and if sown timely I would, in your section, sow only timothy and red top. But try part of the land in the following mixture: tall meadow fescue, tall meadow oats, grass and perennial ryegrass, ten pounds each of the first two and five pounds of the ryegrass an acre. These will give you earlier hay than the timothy and red top, and I believe a heavier crop and will last longer in your section. Better sow the grass this fall."

Crimson Clover in the Lower Coast.
"We had a terrible storm, and I am at a loss about a winter cover crop. The corn is flat on the ground and the soil drifted over it. Would rye or crimson clover grow down broadcast? I cannot get a horse through till the crop, such as it is, is out. Rye, I think almost ruined. Then I have some low ground that I want to put in pasture. Can I sow it to oats and burr clover and cut the oats for hay, and then put in Bermuda grass roots, of which I have an abundance handy? Will I need to lime the land? Had it in oats, followed by peas, and pastured the peas with hogs. The storm has left it in bad shape, will not save any hay or long term. Your section and Eastern North Carolina have had a sad experience this fall. You can sow rye over the down corn and then sow crimson clover seed at rate of fifteen pounds an acre, and I think both will grow without any preparation. The clover certainly will. Then you can sow the oats where the peas have been mowed off, cut them for hay, and then make cuttings of the running stems of the Bermuda, which you call roots, though the true roots are only at the joints. The running stems are called **joins** etc. The stems, and no roots have joints. Plant the cuttings in shallow furrows two feet apart and cover, and they will soon spread over the ground. Then if you sow some Canada blue grass upon compressed soil over the land and run a smoothing harrow over, you will have a good pasture mixture, as the blue grass will keep green in winter, when the Bermuda is brown. Lime will probably help."

Lime Again.
There seems to be no end to the queries about lime which I have tried more than once to explain. "Please advise me the best way to lime sour land, best time to use it, lime to use, best lime and what it should cost." For immediate effect in sweetening acid soil the burnt lime slaked to a powder is best. This may be either stone lime or oyster shell lime. I have found the best time to lime land is in the spring, when turning under clover for corn. Spread the lime after plowing the land and harrow it in. This is best done with a machine made for the purpose, a line spreader, made somewhat after the manner of a wheat drill. A good average amount will be fifteen pounds an acre. You can buy lime in bulk in car loads from the lime burners in Staunton, Ryeview and elsewhere, and the cost will depend on the freight, probably \$5 to \$6 a ton."

Roots.
"My wife wishes to know the best manure or fertilizer for young trees on sandy soil? Is there any danger of using too much nitrate of soda on poor sandy soil? The best manure for trees is well rotted cow manure. Put it on thickly, and mainly as a mulch on top of the soil. The main danger in using nitrate of soda on poor land is that it will encourage a very strong growth, and will therefore enable the plants to draw more heavily on the natural resources of the soil, and unless the mineral elements, such as phosphate acid and potash, are well maintained, the use of nitrate of soda will lead to exhaustion. "Last year I grew

a good crop of peas on a ten-acre field. This spring broke it eight inches deep and used 1,000 pounds of 8-3-3 and 200 pounds of 5-3 top dresser an acre. My cotton was cultivated level and shallow. It grew finely till the heavy rains set in, and then shedded most of the squares and young bolls. Plants were about five feet tall and lapped over four-foot rows. Will only make about 350 pounds of lint an acre, when I should have made 500 to 600 pounds. We have had too much rain for cotton, but some say too much nitrate. What is your opinion? The bolls are all small and the lint short."

With the heavy fertilization, had you had only a fair season, you should have made a heavy crop. But I know your deep sandy soil, and I am sure that the trouble is that in that heavy soil the growth started off well, and then the heavy rains washed the plant food out of reach, and the plants could not maintain the shedding. It was not too much nitrate, but the loss of the fertilizer in the deep sandy soil. You would have done better had you deferred the application of the topdressing till just before the rains started. Had your soil been different, and more retentive, your fertilization would have made a heavier crop. The plant food was simply washed down out of reach, and the extra growth made by the heavy fertilization could not be perfected."

Outs After Corn and Peas.
"I have four acres of sandy land with a heavy crop of cowpeas on it. I think there would be at least twelve bushels of peas an acre. But it has been raining every day for nearly a week. Will the whole crop of peas and vines be worth as much to the land, dragged down and left on the land until spring, as though turned under now? Land made with a good fertilization, eight and a half bushels of wheat an acre this year. Please tell me what is best. Your land is evidently badly in need of humus, as shown by the poor crop of wheat. Then the best thing you can do now will be to disk down the pea crop, by going over both ways with a disk harrow to chop the vines up, and then turn them under and sow rye on the land as a winter cover. Then turn the rye under when not over knee high in spring, and you will bring the decayed peas where they will help a crop of corn finely. Keeping the peas on the surface all winter will be wasteful, and you should always have a green crop on the land in winter to catch the nitrates that would otherwise be washed away, and in this way can turning the plant food to the soil in turning under the rye."

More Lime Questions.
North Carolina: "Please reply in the paper to the following: does liming land pay? What kind to use, and should it be broadcast or in the drill? Will lime destroy blue lice and bird worms? I have some cotton on sandy soil where I had peanuts last year, and the bolls are many of them rotting. A black spot comes on the boll and then spreads to the whole boll, and the little worms can be found in them." You seem to have the idea that lime is used as a fertilizer. It certainly pays to lime if the land is acid. We do not put it in furrows nor plow it under, but spread it on the plowed land and harrow it in. Lime will not destroy the lice nor the bird worm. Lime application does not seem to get the whole of the bird worms in the furrows will prevent the lice and heavy use of kainit is best for the bird worm. Your cotton has the anthracnose disease. Like many others in North Carolina you have probably been getting seed from South Carolina, where the disease is widespread. The disease is carried by the seed. Therefore, do not use any seed from a field that was affected this year, but get perfectly clean seed from a clean field. All over North Carolina I have had reports of anthracnose from farmers who have bought seed of what is called "Half and Half" cotton from South Carolina."

Lime or Limestone.
"You generally advise farmers to get burnt lime in bulk and slake it for themselves, and thus save freight. I want but ten or twelve tons for alfalfa, and can buy ground limestone not far away in sacks at \$2.50 a ton. Would burnt lime in bulk be cheaper for me? I think that you could get the burnt lime in bulk in carloads that would cost you about \$2.50 a ton at your station. This lime will more than double in bulk in slaking, and you would need to use not more than half as much as of the ground limestone. On land for alfalfa a ton of this will be an abundance, while you would need two tons of the ground limestone an acre. You can make the figures for yourself."

Celery.
Henrico County: "I read with great interest your columns in The Times-Dispatch. Have some fine celery ready for marketing. Tried your Baltimore method. You promised to write about the last work on celery at the proper season, but so far I have not seen any directions for earthing up and banking for the winter. Please give same in the paper. Tell me where I can get the bulk of your experience in book-form. You necessarily have to repeat so much for your numerous inquiries that it is hard to read what I want without wading through a great deal more. I have your book, "Practical Farming," and want more on the garden and truck crops as I live near the city." I had overlooked the fact that I have not told how to earth up the celery beds. It is rather early to do the general earthing, but just now the proper thing is what we call the handing-up. For this purpose I use two cords with wooden pegs at each end. Starting at one end of the bed I stick peg at the end of the row, and take a turn of the cord around each plant in the first row to hold the leaves erect. Treat the second row in the same way, and then shovel earth in between the rows, and pack it close to the plants to hold them erect."

Go over two rows at a time in the same way till the whole bed is straightened up, and after that the nights get cooler, you can shovel in the earth, just keeping the ground level about the soil, and avoiding getting earth into the plants. Carry up the earth on the sides of the bed six inches outside the plants, but never touch the plants when wet with dew or rain. Frosty nights will do no harm, and as a rule the final covering should be done all some time in November, depending on the season. In fact, I have kept earthing till near December. But the covering should be done before real hard freezing. When it is evident that hard freezing is at hand, cover the whole bed with straw or for cut leaves thickly and put something on top to prevent their blowing away. Generally use corn stalks, or bean poles. After frost, earth as rapidly as practicable. You can get "Crop Growing" and "Crop Feeding" from Forum Company, Eighteenth and Market Streets, Philadelphia, Pa., for 50 cents.

AMUSEMENTS.

Academy—"The Conspiracy." 7:15—Matinee and night. Keith Vaudeville. Bijou—Matinee and night. "A Fool There Was." Colonial—Vaudeville. Empire—"Quo Vadis."

"The Conspiracy." An organization of thieves and murderers known in New York as "The Scarlet Band," are exposed in the great detective-police melodrama, entitled "The Conspiracy," which Charles Frohman will present to-night, Friday, Saturday and Sunday matinee at the Academy.

No Holiday on Exchange.

New York, October 8.—The board of governors of the Stock Exchange has declined to grant the request of the change members for a holiday next Saturday. Some of the members thought as Columbus Day, a legal holiday, falls on Sunday and as a baseball struggle takes place in this city on the day preceding, the board of governors might be induced to push the calendar backward for twenty-four hours.

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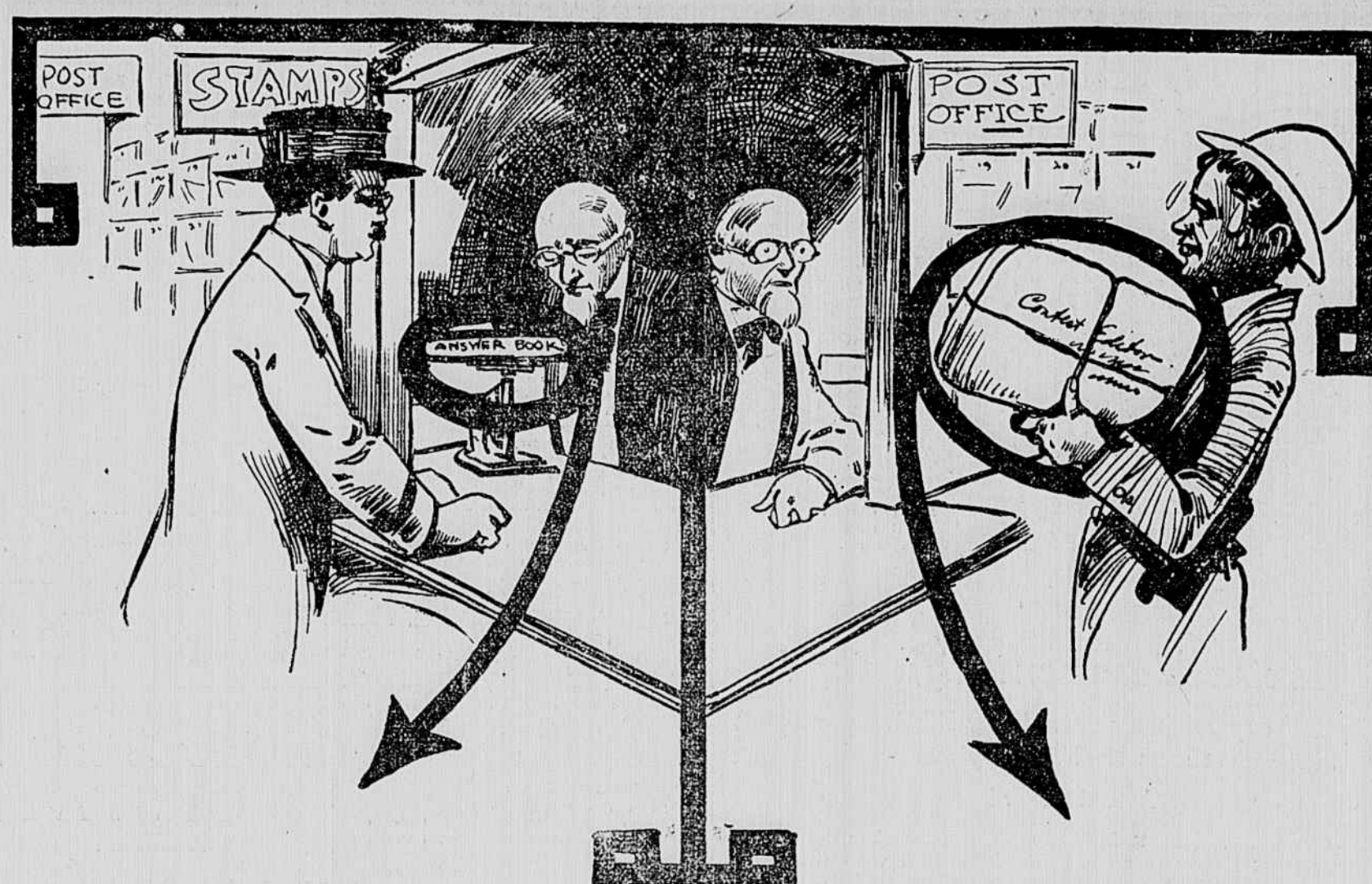
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*Cunania, Nov. 19, 1913. *Cunania, Nov. 23, 1913.
*Lusitania, Nov. 5, 1913. *Lusitania, Nov. 19, 1913.
*Cunania, Nov. 19, 1913. *Cunania, Dec. 3, 1913.
*Cunania, Nov. 19, 1913. *Cunania, Dec. 15, 1913.
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